

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims replaces the previous versions of the claims.

1. (Previously amended) A method for generating an index of fundamental investment returns in asset classes, including commercial asset classes, comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a representative set of assets, where said assets may be grouped into a plurality of classes;

(b) for any time  $t$  including the present time, time  $t$  being at the close of a holding period  $h$ , generating a rule based on market prices at a plurality of times preceding time  $t$  to determine a position for each of said assets for a succeeding holding period  $h+1$ ;

(c) determining the position for each of said assets for said succeeding holding period  $h+1$  in accordance with said rule;

(d) obtaining market prices for each of said assets at the beginning and end of said succeeding holding period  $h+1$ ;

(e) computing with a computer a return for each of said assets for said succeeding holding period  $h+1$ , said return being a function of the position for said succeeding holding period  $h+1$  and the market prices at the beginning and end of said succeeding holding period  $h+1$  determined in steps (c) and (d);

(f) averaging the returns computed in step (e) for all the selected assets in each of said plurality of classes, the average for each of said classes is the return for that class; and

(g) computing with a computer the index as a function of the returns for each class.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where the step (g) of computing the index further comprises the steps of selecting weights such that each weight corresponds to one of said plurality of classes, and averaging the products of the return for each class multiplied by its corresponding weight.

3. (Currently amended) A method for generating a series of investment returns with respect to time, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a plurality of assets from a plurality of asset classes;
- (b) determining a position for each of said assets for a time t based on historical market price data;
- (c) determining a holding period beginning at time t for each of said assets;
- (d) obtaining a market price for each of said assets at time t and at the end of said holding period;
- (e) computing with a computer an asset return for each of said assets for said holding period, said asset return being a function of the position and the market price of each of said assets at time t and at the end of said holding period;
- (f) averaging said asset returns computed in step ~~(d)~~ (e) for said holding period, for all of said assets in each of said asset classes[[],];
- (g) ~~to determine~~ determining a class return for each of said asset classes based on said averaging; and
- ~~(g)~~ (h) computing with a computer an index of returns for said holding period, as a function of the class returns for each of said asset classes for said holding period.

4. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the step of computing the index of investment returns further comprises the steps of selecting weights such that each weight corresponds to one of said asset classes, and averaging the products of the class return for each asset class multiplied by the corresponding weight.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising selecting at least one asset from each of two commercial markets.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said plurality of asset classes comprises at least one from the group of: commodities, currencies, and bonds.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining said position based on whether the market price for each of said assets increased or decreased since a predefined time preceding said time  $t$ .
8. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining said position based on a moving average of the asset returns for each of said assets for a predetermined past time period.
9. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
  - (a) determining a continuous series of returns for each of said assets, wherein a return is determined using a futures contract for each of said assets for each of a plurality of holding periods;

(b) determining an average value of the continuous series over a predetermined number of past holding periods; and

(c) determining said position as a function of the current value of the continuous series and said average value of the continuous series.

10. (Previously amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the steps of setting the position to long when the current value of said continuous series of futures returns is greater than the average value of the continuous series, and otherwise setting the position to short.

11. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of determining one or more futures contracts for each of said assets and determining the market prices for each of said assets for said times  $t$  in accordance with the futures contract for said times  $t$ .

12. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of computing the asset return for each of said assets further comprises the step of setting the asset return equal to the product of the market price at said time  $t$  divided by the market price at a preceding time  $t-1$  multiplied by the position for said time  $t$ .

13. (Previously amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the steps of determining the investment return for the holding period beginning at time  $t$  as the average of the class returns for said holding period, and determining an index for said holding period as the product of the index

for the preceding said holding period multiplied by the sum of one plus the investment return for the holding period beginning at time  $t$ .

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously amended) A method for generating a series of investment returns for a plurality of asset classes, each class having at least one asset member, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a plurality of holding periods;

(b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods;

(c) calculating a continuous series of futures returns for each asset member based on the futures contract and the market price for said asset member at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods;

(d) determining a position for each said asset member for each of said holding periods based on said continuous series of futures returns for the preceding holding periods;

(e) calculating an asset return for each said asset member based on the position and the market price at the beginning and end of said holding period;

(f) calculating a class return for each asset class based on the market returns for each asset member in said class; and

(g) calculating an investment return for said holding period, based on the class returns.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said plurality of asset classes comprises at least one from the group of: commodities, currencies, and bonds.

18. (Previously amended) A method for generating a series of investment returns for a plurality of asset classes, each class having at least one asset member, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining a holding period for each said asset member;
- (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each said futures contract having a market price for the beginning and end of each said holding period;
- (c) determining a position for each said asset member based on the futures contract, the market prices and the holding period;
- (d) determining an asset return for each said asset member as a function of the position for each said holding period and the prices at the beginning and end of each said holding period;
- (e) determining a class return for each asset class as an average of the asset return for each said asset class member;
- (f) determining a weight corresponding to each said asset class;
- (g) determining a weighted return for each said asset class as a product of the class return for each said asset class and the corresponding weight; and
- (h) determining an investment return for said holding period as a sum of the weighted return for each said asset class.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein said plurality of asset classes comprises at least one from the group of commodities, currencies, and bonds.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) A system for generating an index of investment returns, comprising a processor; and a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions for:

(a) selecting a plurality of assets from a plurality of asset classes;

(b) determining a position for each of said assets for a time  $t$  based on historical market price data;

(c) determining a holding period beginning at time  $t$  for each of said assets;

(d) obtaining a market price for each of said assets at time  $t$  and at the end of said holding period;

(e) computing with a computer an asset return for each of said assets for said holding period, said asset return being a function of the position and the market price at time  $t$  and at the end of said holding period;

(f) averaging said asset returns computed in step (e) for said holding period, for all of said assets in each of said asset classes[[]];

(g) ~~to determine~~ determining a class return for each of said asset classes based on said averaging; and

(g) (h) computing with a computer an index of investment returns for said holding period as a function of the class returns for each of said asset classes for said holding period.

23. (Previously amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the step of computing the index of investment returns further comprises the steps of selecting weights such that each weight corresponds to one of said asset classes, and averaging the products of the class return for each asset class multiplied by the corresponding weight.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously amended) A system for generating an index of investment returns, comprising a processor; and a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions for: (a) determining a plurality of holding periods; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods; (c) calculating a continuous series of returns for each asset member based on the futures contract and the market price for said asset member at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods; (d) determining a position for each said asset member for each of said holding periods based on said continuous series of futures returns for the preceding holding periods; (e) calculating an asset return for each said asset member based on the position and market price of each of said assets at the beginning and end of said holding period; (f)



calculating a class return for each asset class based on the market returns for each asset member in said class; and (g) calculating an investment return for said holding period based on the class returns for each of said assets for said holding period.

26. (Previously amended) A system for generating an index of investment returns, comprising a processor; and a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions for: (a) determining a holding period for each said asset member; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each said futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each said holding period; (c) determining a position for each said asset class member based on the futures contract, the market prices and the holding period; (d) determining an asset return for each said asset member as a function of the position for each said holding period and the prices at the beginning and end of said holding period; (e) determining a class return for each asset class for each said holding period as an average of the asset return for each said asset member for each said holding period; (f) determining a weight corresponding to each said asset class; (g) determining a weighted return for each said asset class as a product of the class return for each said asset class and the corresponding weight; and (h) determining an investment return for said holding period as a sum of the weighted return for each said asset class.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for generating an index of investment returns, the method comprising: (a) determining a plurality of holding periods; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of each of said holding periods; (c) calculating a continuous series of futures returns for each asset member based on the futures contract and the market price for said asset member for each of said holding periods; (d) determining a position for each said asset member for each of said holding periods based on said continuous series of futures returns for the preceding holding periods; (e) calculating an asset return for each said asset member for each said holding period based on the position and the market prices at the beginning and end of said holding period; (f) calculating a class return for each asset class for each said holding period based on the market returns for each asset member in said class; and (g) calculating an investment return for said holding period based on the class returns.

32. (Previously amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for generating an index of investment returns, the method comprising: (a) determining a holding period for each said asset member; (b) determining a futures contract for each asset member, each said futures contract having a market price at the beginning and end of

each said holding period; (c) determining a position for each said asset member based on the futures contract, the market price and the holding period; (d) determining an asset return for each said asset member for each said holding period as a function of the position for said holding period and the market prices at the beginning and end of said holding period; (e) determining a class return for each asset class for each said holding period as an average of the asset return for each said asset member for each said holding periods; (f) determining a weight corresponding to each said asset class; (g) determining a weighted return for each said asset class for each said holding period as a product of the class return for each said asset class and the corresponding weight; and (h) determining an investment return for each said holding period as a sum of the weighted return for each said asset class.

33. (Canceled)